

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**  
**WILDERNESS SCHOOL**

**CONSENT AND WAIVER FORM**

**TO THE STUDENT AND PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN:** The Wilderness School conducts physically demanding courses of up to twenty days in length. The program is not a summer camp experience. The student must be emotionally as well as physically prepared for the rigorous demands of the experience. Students participate in back country expeditions that may include hiking, canoeing, rock climbing, a high ropes course, a service project, an 8.5-mile marathon run and a solo experience. Students sleep in tarps inside sleeping bags for the entire course. Students carry thirty to fifty pound backpacks on average of eight miles per day and for extended periods.

The Wilderness School provides ample and nutritious meals prepared by the student. Special dietary requirements cannot always be met. All drinking water from natural sources is purified by boiling or by use of a chemical (iodine) water purification treatment. Personal hygiene and self-care are limited to a primitive wilderness setting (cold water bathing). Toilet facilities are limited to latrines and outhouses. Expeditions occur in remote areas and in all types of weather, including wind, rain, cold, heat and electrical storms. Additional environmental hazards include potential exposure to diseases such as Rabies, Lyme Disease, West Nile Disease, or Giardia through contact with animals; and insect bites and stings. Due to the remote environment, contact with students is through correspondence only. Mail is forwarded from the East Hartland base camp to students via resupplies and other scheduled visits by program support staff. While the course is stressful, it is expected that any person with normal physical and mental abilities can complete the program successfully. The use of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs is prohibited.

The Wilderness School is a referral program servicing agencies such as youth service bureaus, school systems, residential programs, probation and parole offices, and DCF regional offices. Students attending the program may exhibit school problems, have police or court contact, or be involved in counseling or psychiatric care. Wilderness School courses are diverse and are enrolled in single gender groupings according to the open enrollment of the course. When courses are over-enrolled with either male or female students, mixed gender groupings may be considered based upon the discretion of the Wilderness School.

**CONSENT AND WAIVER:** There are certain inherent risks to be assumed when participating in activities of a physical nature. Wilderness School Instructors will inform students of safety rules and will conduct all activities in a safe manner. However, the entire responsibility is not the Instructors'. Students also have a role in maintaining the safety of the group. Students should call to the attention of the Instructors any situation that seems to be a possible danger to any Wilderness School student or staff. This could include: **1. Broken equipment; 2. Feeling sick or very tired; 3. Having considerable trouble performing or learning a skill.**

We have read the above information and understand the physical and stressful nature of the 20-Day, 5-Day or Alumni Expedition, and the nature of the student population. Consent is granted for the student to attend the Wilderness School and to participate in the Follow-Up activities of the program. We have described any medical or physical conditions that might affect the student's ability to participate in any activity. As a student, I will at all times wear any required equipment, and follow the directions of the Wilderness School staff. I understand Behavioral Policy violations (see Student Contract) or other inappropriate behaviors will lead to removal from the course.

**CONSENT AND WAIVER FORM continued**

Permission is granted by those signed below for any medical treatment, emergency anesthesia and/or operation that might become necessary. Permission is also granted for the student to take the following non-prescription medications under the supervision of program staff:

Antifungal cream	Benadryl (or equivalent)	Poison ivy lotion
Ibuprofen	Acetaminophen	Antacid tablets
Laxative tablets	Anti-diarrheal tablets	Throat Lozenges
Hydrocortisone ointment	Antibiotic ointment	
Hydrogen Peroxide (topical)	Providone Iodine (topical)	

☐ I grant permission for the student to take any of the above non-prescription medications as needed and under staff supervision.

☐ I object to the following medications (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

Permission is granted for student photo and slide documentation of the course. Consent is also given for those photos and slides to be used in all aspects of Wilderness School functions including slide shows, orientations, pamphlets and newspaper or journal articles.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature      Date

**MEDICAL COVERAGE:**

For our records, answers to the following questions are required in detail.

1. Is the applicant covered by a hospitalization and medical care policy? \_\_\_\_\_

2. If yes, name the Insurance Company issuing the policy \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Does the above insurance policy pay for prescription medication? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit a copy of the student's medical insurance and prescription cards.**

4. If not, I will assume full responsibility for any medical costs incurred while my son/daughter/ward is at the Wilderness School.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature      Date